Draft
Environmental Assessment

BANNACK STATE PARK
Building Stabilization Project

December 2007

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Bannack State Park Building Stabilization Project
Draft Environmental Assessment
MEPA, NEPA, MCA 23-1-110 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Proposed state action**: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to perform stabilization work on eleven (11) historic buildings within Bannack State Park. Proposed projects vary from building to building but generally address foundations, roofs, replacement of sill and spandrel logs, and drainage issues. In addition, two frost-free water hydrants would be added to the current outdoor water system.

2. **Agency authority for the proposed action:** The 1939 Montana State Legislature passed MCA 23-1-101 which states that a State Park System would be established "for the purpose of conserving the scenic, historic, archaeological, scientific, and recreational resources of the state and providing for their use and enjoyment, thereby contributing to the cultural, recreational, and economic life of the people and their health". Montana Section 23-1-102 (4) MCA gives FWP "jurisdiction, custody, and control of all state parks, recreational areas, public camping grounds, historical sites, and monuments".

3. **Name of project:** Bannack State Park Building Stabilization Project.

4. **Project Sponsor:** Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks

5. **Construction Timeline:**
Estimated Construction/Commencement Date: Spring 2008
Estimated Completion Date: Fall 2008
Current Status of Project Design (% complete): 50

6. **Location affected by proposed action:** Bannack State Park is located in the southwestern area of Montana. Take I-15 south of Dillon to exit #59 (Highway 278 exit.) Drive west on Highway 278 for 18 miles. Turn south onto the Bannack Road and travel four miles. Park entrance road will be on the left-hand side. Lat 45.157, Lng -112.985. Section 7, Township 08S, Range 11W (see Fig. 1 for location map).

7. Project size:

	Acres		Acres
(a) Developed:		(d) Floodplain	0
Residential	0		
Industrial	0	(e) Productive:	
		Irrigated cropland	0
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/Recreation		Dry cropland	0
		Forestry	0
(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas	0	Rangeland	0
		Other	20
		(Historic Townsite)	

8. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

(a) Permits: permits will be filed at least 2 weeks prior to project start.

Agency Name	Permit
N/A	

(b) Funding:

The 2007 Legislature Session recognized Bannack State Park as an important State resource and thus earmarked $500,000 in the General Fund to this project.

Agency Name	Funding Amount
2007 Montana Legislature General Fund	$500,000
Fish Wildlife & Parks (Major Maintenance Fund)	$2,000

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

Agency Name	Type of Responsibility
State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	Cultural Artifact Determination

FWP has also retained a qualified special historical architect to provide the design and oversight for this project.

9. Narrative summary of the proposed action:

Bannack State Park in southwest Montana (see Fig. 1) is home to Montana's best-preserved ghost town and the first Territorial Capitol of Montana. The town of Bannack was founded in 1862 after John White discovered gold in Grasshopper Creek. It was Montana's first major gold strike (then part of Dakota Territory), and the ensuing gold rush swelled Bannack's population to over 3,000 by 1863. Now a booming mining town, Bannack became the first Territorial Capital of Montana in May 1864.

With the discovery of gold at Alder Gulch in 1863 and other strikes in Helena and Confederate Gulch in 1864, the population of Bannack began to dwindle. Many of

Bannack's settlers moved on within a few years, following the lure of more gold in Virginia City and other locations. By the late 1930's, mining at Bannack had all but ceased and many of the buildings were rapidly deteriorating. Concerned local citizens created the Bannack Preservation Committee and began to discuss options for preserving some of the buildings in Bannack, especially the jail. Among the many groups involved in the efforts to preserve Bannack were the Beaverhead County Museum Association (BCMA), The Daughters of the American Revolution, Western Montana College of Education (now the University of Montana Western), Beaverhead County Mining Association, Society of Montana Pioneers, and many local civic groups and individuals.

Little progress was made during the years of WWII, but after the war ended efforts to preserve Bannack were revived. Discussion began to shift from trying to preserve individual buildings in Bannack to preserving the entire town and surrounding area, and in 1947 a letter of interest was submitted to the supervisor of State Parks that Bannack be made into a state park. However, the Parks Division did not have the funds for such an acquisition at that time, and the request languished for several years.

Then in 1953, the I.B. Mining Company, which owned much of the property in and around Bannack, was forced to sell its Bannack holdings by auction because of financial setbacks. The Beaverhead County Museum Association sent two representatives to the auction to bid up to $1,100 on the property with funds obtained by borrowing on the credit of the Association. The Association was outbid, but the winner later approached the Association and offered to sell them the land they were interested in with the exception of his parent's home and property for $1,100.

This offer was readily accepted, and the Association started a campaign to raise the necessary funds. A financial committee was created, and numerous meetings were held which focused on figuring ways of raising funds to pay off the bank loan. Montana newspapers carried human interest stories about Bannack, and donations started to come in from throughout the area. The largest donation ($82) was from Bob Barrett, the president of the State Bank that advanced the Association the loan. The Shakespeare Club gave $75, Georgia and Bertie Mathews, long time Bannack residents, gave $25 each, and many more private citizens and organizations gave money for the acquisition of Bannack, including a $1 donation from the Hi Lighters 4-H Club. These amounts do not seem significant by today's standards, but they were generous in 1953. The effort to purchase Bannack was truly a grass-roots effort.

Throughout this process, The BCMA continued to communicate with the State Park Division (then under the State Highway Commission) on the creation of a state park at Bannack. Again, lack of funds appeared to be prohibitively low to purchase the property (now held by the BCMA), so during the BCMA meeting on January 23, 1954 a resolution was passed to give the "townsite of Bannack, Montana for use as a public park, historical site and recreational area" to the State of Montana. A condition in the grant stipulated that the State "shall so maintain and use said properties for the purposes above mentioned; but that should the State fail so to use and maintain said properties, or abandon the same, then, the title thereto shall revert to this corporation."

The dedication of Bannack as a new State Monument occurred on August 15, 1954, during a three-day celebration. The huge event drew over 5,000 people from across the state and beyond, including Gov. J. Hugo Aronson and numerous state officials. A pageant was put on by descendants of pioneer families in Bannack, complete with a stagecoach and a trial of Plummer and his gang. Music, square dancing, a pancake breakfast, a church service, picnics, and speeches were all part of the festivities for Montana's newest State Monument.

Today, Bannack is on the National Register of Historic Places and although dedicated as a State Monument in 1954 is now designated a State Park. Over eighty buildings survive from Bannack's heyday, most of which are open to the public. More than 28,000 people visit Bannack State Park every year, many of whom come during the annual Bannack Days Festival. This event features historic displays and activities and is held the third weekend in July each year. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of so many people and organizations, Bannack was saved and is today one of the best preserved ghost towns in America (excerpts taken from *The Creation of Bannack State Park* by Tom Lowe.

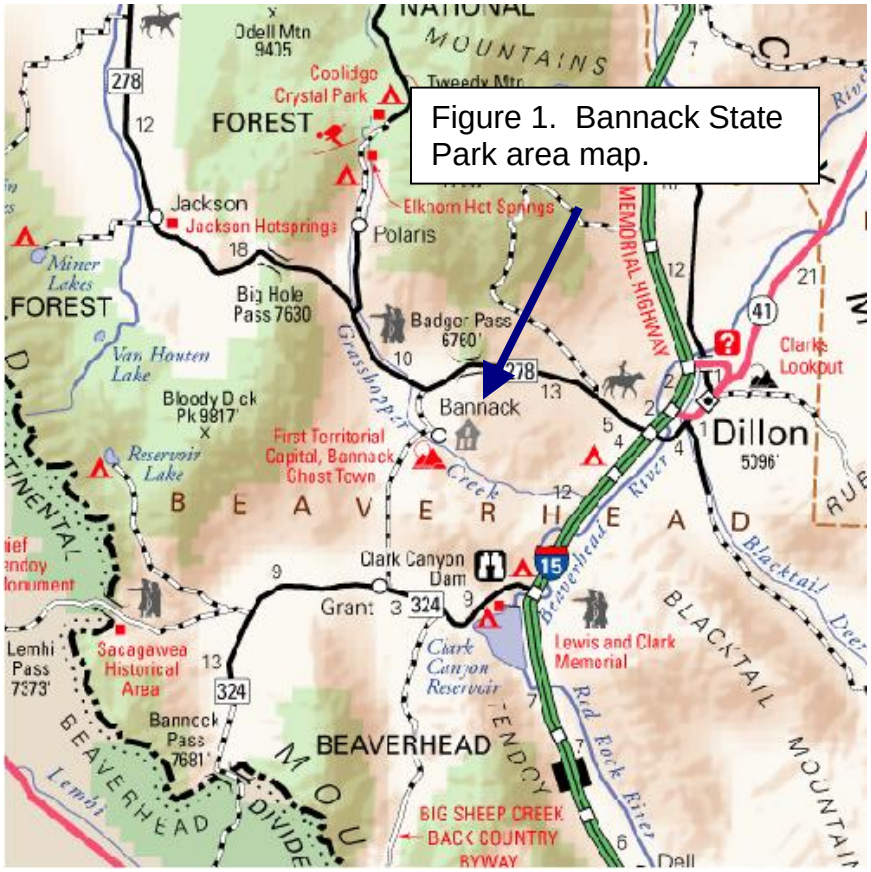


Figure 1. Bannack State Park area map.

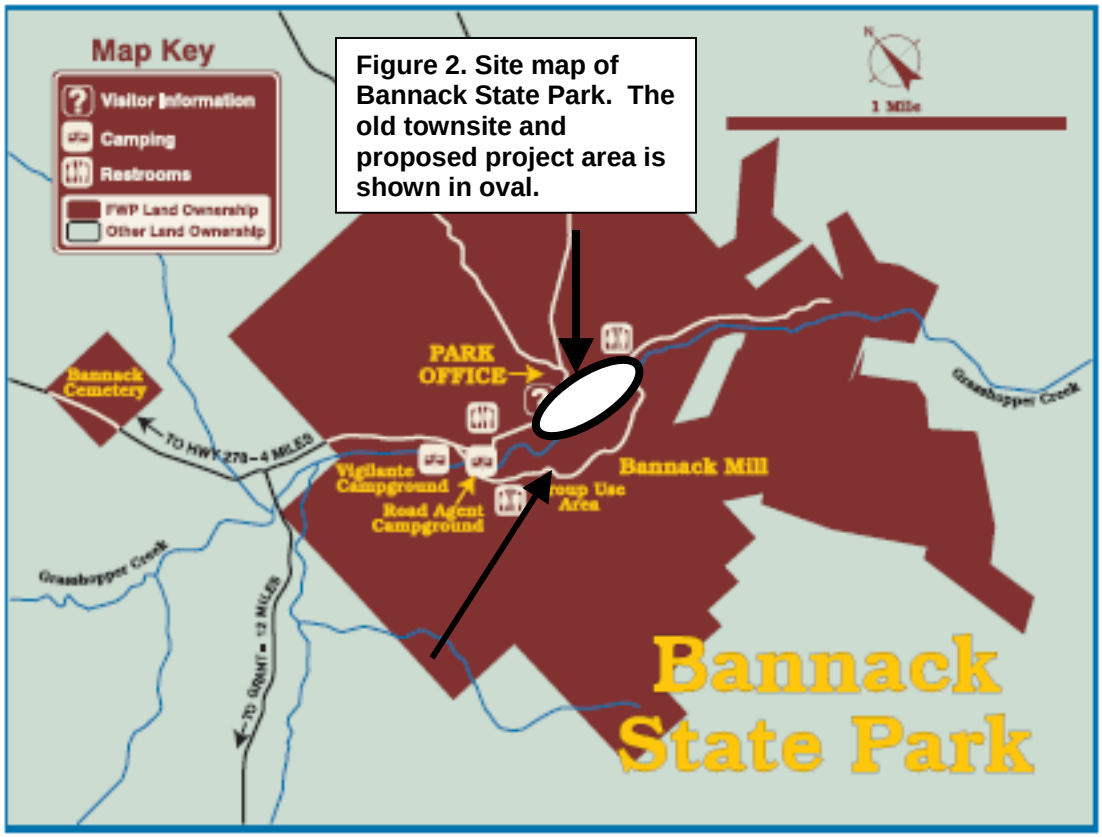


Figure 2. Site map of Bannack State Park. The old townsite and proposed project area is shown in oval.

The 80 or so historic buildings located within the old Bannack town site offer a glimpse of life in frontier Montana and are the central focus of the Park. These buildings need significant maintenance or they will eventually collapse. While some ghost towns in Montana are "allowed" to naturally disintegrate, Bannack State Park was established in part to preserve the town in its historic state for the enjoyment and education of the public, for the present and future. The Bannack State Park Mission Statement reads, in part:

The mission of Bannack State Park is: to preserve and stabilize the site as a ghost town in order to retain the atmosphere of the past with a sense of remote isolation, mystery and abandonment and to interpret and educate the public about the Park and about Montana's past.

An important part of the preservation of Bannack is to stabilize the historic buildings to significantly slow or prevent further deterioration. This type of work is very expensive and detail-oriented. A building stabilization project was conducted on several historic Bannack buildings in 1995. The 2007 Legislature allocated $500,000 of general fund money to continue to address the on-going stabilization needs of several other buildings in the town. Therefore, FWP proposes the following stabilization and preservation measures for 11 important historic structures by priorities, which are discussed below in general terms. Please see Figs. 3 and 4 for corresponding maps. In addition, the existing outside water system would be upgraded by installing two additional frost-free water hydrants behind the Manager's Residence/Manager's Office (see arrow in upper left corner of Fig. 3).

Existing conditions

Various reports, analyses, and assessments relating to the condition of the Bannack buildings have been generated over time and have helped managers determine the steps necessary to preserve historic buildings in the Park. Jeff Sheldon, of Prairie Wind Architecture, p.c., completed a Building Condition Assessment on 29 buildings in 1994 and 16 buildings in 2006. An Architectural Conservation Assessment was also conducted on several buildings at Bannack in 1992 by James R. McDonald Architects, Missoula. These documents describe the problems, analyze solutions, and provide recommendations for many of Bannack's structures. Due to the volume of material contained in these reports, they have not been attached to this EA but generally address foundations, roofs, replacement of sill and spandrel logs, and drainage issues. All of the materials are available for review at Bannack State Park, the FWP office in Bozeman, and the FWP Design and Construction Office in Helena.

In the matter of the outdoor water system, one spigot is not sufficient for the amount of watering demand at the Park, and it has been determined that two additional hydrants are necessary to meet irrigation needs and provide fire protection.

Priority #1

Meade Hotel (see Fig. 4, A8):

1. Finish patched masonry on the south façade to match adjacent brick surfaces.
2. Open the floor to expose the cause of the settling in the north and west walls of the frame addition. Repair and level the structure if it is deemed necessary.
3. Re-grade at the north elevations to provide positive surface drainage.
4. Provide a gutter and downspout at north elevation.
5. Selectively repair the plaster and some finishes.
6. Repair gap in walls between frame addition and brick building on east addition.

Priority #2

Assay Office (see Fig. 3, A6):

1. Rebuild and reinforce the roof/ceiling.
2. Provide the lateral ties between the walls at the roof and floor.
3. Replace the existing metal roof in-kind.
4. Remove the temporary cribbing and supports.
5. Repair the back of the storefront above the roof in-kind, add a metal cap.

Priority #3

Kepler's Cabin (see Fig. 4, A19-3):

1. Replace and treat sill, spandrel and wall logs.
2. Install subgrade drainage.
3. Take steps to ensure the soil loads are reduced.
4. Reconstruct the roof with a membrane included.
5. Reconstruct the interior wall to provide bearing for the log beams.
6. Reconstruct the floor structure and reinstall the existing flooring level. Add a concealed vapor barrier.
7. Refinish walls to match exiting finishes after stabilization is completed.
8. Build a new footing system on all elevations of the cabin.

9. Remove soil around north side of cabin and two root cellars, rebuild walls of both cellars and replace rotten logs on north portion of cabin. Install a protective membrane to all exterior walls and replace soil.
10. Pull east elevation wall back into place at corner; replace any logs that are rotten or deteriorated.
11. Replace top log on south elevation to better support the roof.

Priority #4

Marge Griffth House (see Fig. 3, A5-3)

1. Replace sill, spandrel and wall logs, install corner stones if none exist.
2. Install subgrade drainage.
3. Match permanent roofing to a documentable type, most likely colored mineral surfaced roll roofing. Maintain roof penetration, change roll roofing to a board and batten roof, install a water proof membrane under board and batten
4. Rebuild and level the floor in the main cabin.
5. Replace bad logs on west elevation.
6. Tighten up all corner notches.

Priority #5

Daisy Ashworth House (see Figure 3, A5-2):

1. Replace sill, spandrel and wall logs.
2. Utilize preservative treatment to extend the life of new logs.
3. Maintain existing grades.
4. Match permanent roofing to documentable type, most likely colored mineral surfaced roll roofing. Maintain roof penetrations, change roll roofing to a board and batten roof, install a waterproof membrane under board and batten.
5. Level and repair the floor.
6. Install corner stones under cabin corners.
7. Straighten walls and tighten corners.

Priority #6

Unknown (see Fig. 4, A13-5):

1. Replace and treat logs. Maintain building and logs in their current relative positions.
2. Disassemble and treat roof boards with a water repellant/preservative; reassemble.
3. Replace or splice all logs that are rotten on all sides of the cabin.
4 Remove soil from west, north, and east sides to provide positive drainage. Provide a moisture barrier on portions of the building that will fall under the soil grade.
5. Lift building and place on corner stones.
6. Replace or rebuild roof boards and support purlins.

Priority #7

Unknown (A13-7):

1. Remove soil from north wall and completely rebuild with in-kind logs. Replace soil with a water barrier membrane installed.
2. Rebuild shed style sod roof with in kind material and membrane. The purlins will need to be replaced along with all of the 1X material.
3. Place the walls of the cabin on corner stones.
4. Rebuild door and window sash

Priority #8

Mathews House (see Figure 3, B2):

1. Rebuild floors and ceilings in-kind in the rear portion of the building. Preserve existing finishes where possible, and document and replicate historic finishes where necessary.

Priority #9

Parsonage (A17-1):

1. Replace all sill logs as described in the assessment. Verify the stone foundation at the perimeter.
2. Re-plumb the building if possible.
3. Incorporate a free draining membrane to subsurface drainage between the parsonage and the church.
4. Restore the character and volume of the interior spaces.
5. Restore floor framing and flooring in the northwest corner of the building.

Priority #10

Bath House (A17-2):

1. Replace damaged siding in-kind.
2. Replace roof.
3. Re-grade for better surface drainage north of the house, in conjunction with the effort behind the church and the parsonage.
4. Restore the membrane in the north shed roof, taking care to preserve and restore the existing board and batten roof.
5. Repair rotted portions of the wood floor in the north shed.
6. Treat buried portions of the north shed framing with borate to prevent potential rot

Priority #11

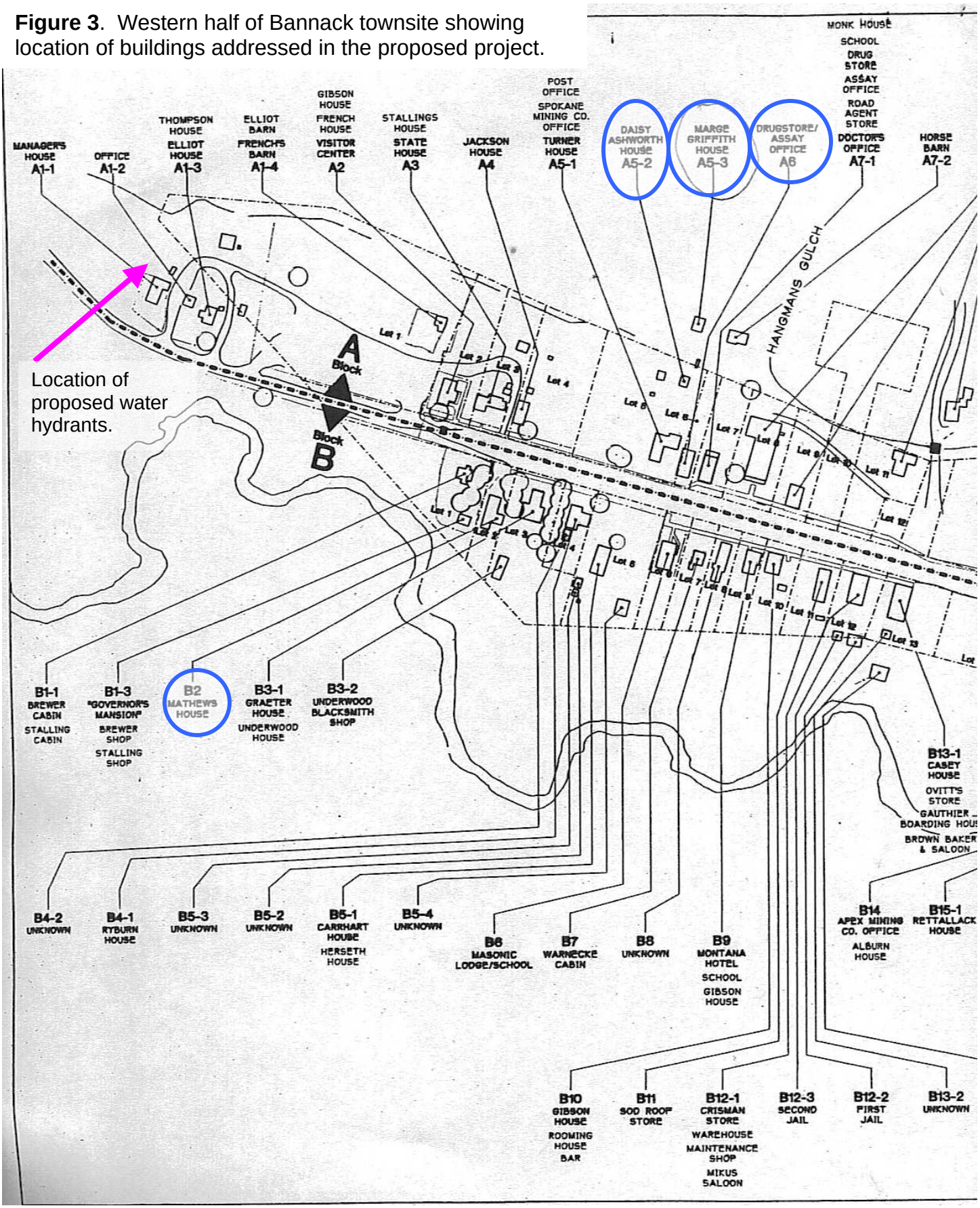
Bootlegger Cabin (A18):

1. Rebuild the canopy over the entry at the inside corner of the house.
2. Replace the documentable window and door caps on the south facade.
3. Cut a new verge board to match the original profile and condition.
4. Replace roof.
5. Rebuild portion of the south flue, and re-point the north flue.
6. Repair the flue support cabinet in the south room of the cabin.
7. Repair the floor in the north room.
8. Restore the window casings in the north room.

Benefits of the proposed actions:

The benefit of the proposed action is the preservation of an important Montana historical landmark which will enhance the experience of visitors to Bannack State Park. A stable, enduring townsite is a vital aspect of the Park and helps to illustrate the role that Bannack played in Montana's history.

Figure 3. Western half of Bannack townsite showing location of buildings addressed in the proposed project.



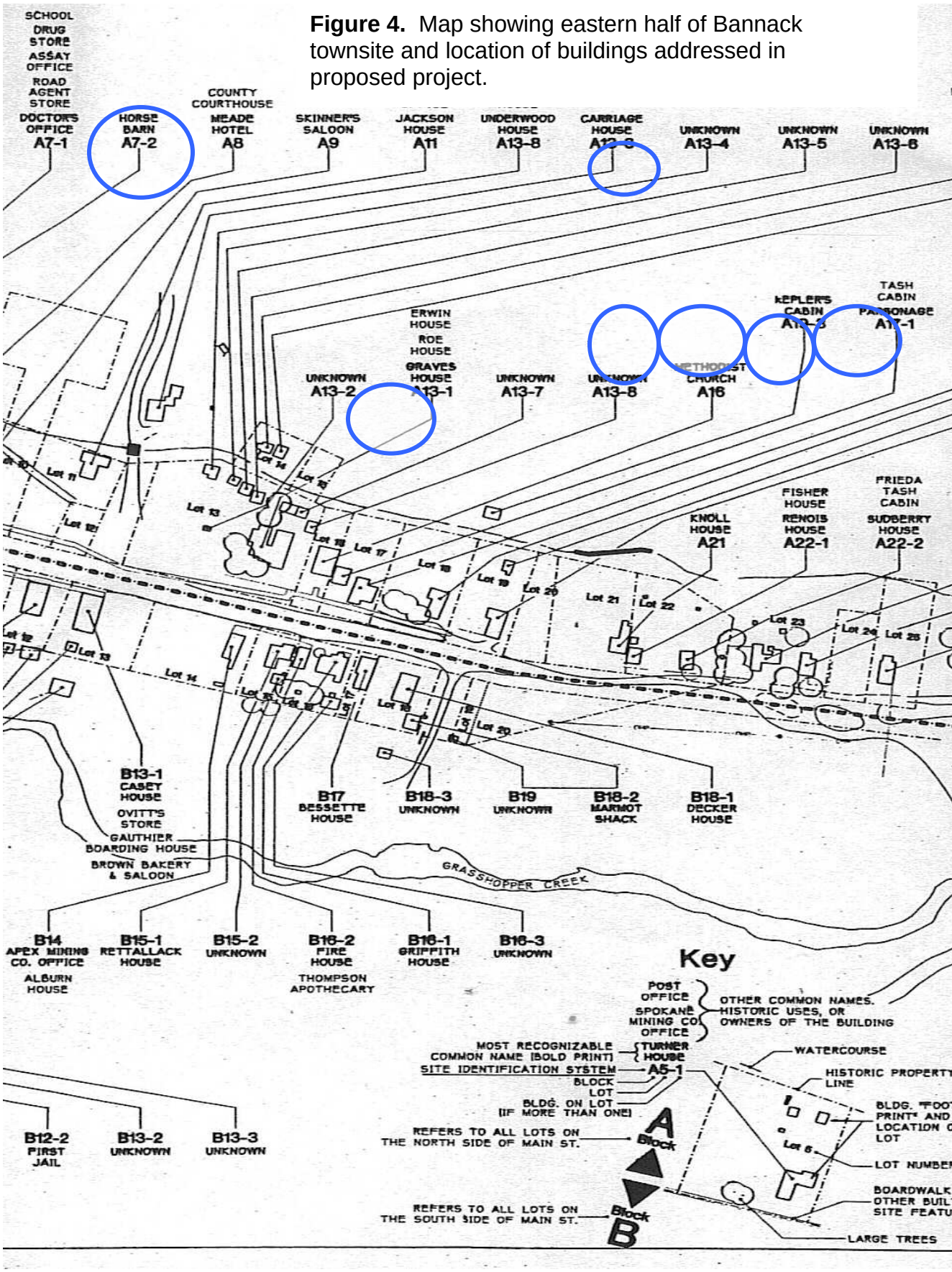


Figure 4. Map showing eastern half of Bannack townsite and location of buildings addressed in proposed project.

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

1. Alternatives:

Alternative A: No Action
If no action is taken, the proposed building stabilization work at Bannack State Park would not occur. Historic buildings in need of repair would continue to deteriorate further, making any future stabilization work more time-consuming and costly.

Alternative B: Proposed Action
In the preferred Alternative, FWP would proceed with plans to perform stabilization work on 11 historic buildings in the old townsite of Bannack. Work would include repairing foundations and roofs, replacing sill and spandrel logs, and modifying landscapes in the direct vicinity of the 11 buildings to improve drainage away from structures.

2. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:
There are no formal stipulations of mitigation or other controls associated with the proposed action. This action does not involve any permits or granting of a license on which stipulations would be placed.

PART III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Public Involvement:
The public will be notified by way of legal notices in the *Helena Independent Record, Butte Montana Standard,* and *The Dillon Tribune* and by public notice on the Fish, Wildlife & Parks website: **http://fwp.mt.gov/publicnotices**. Individual notices will be sent to FWP's Region Three standard distribution list and to those that have requested one. A statewide press release will also be sent to Montana newspapers.

2. Duration of comment period:
The comment period will commence on 12-21-07 with comments due by 5pm on 01-21-08.

A 30-day comment period is proposed. This level of public involvement is appropriate for this scale of project.

Comments should be sent to:

Dale Carlson
Bannack State Park Manager
4200 Bannack Rd.
Dillon, MT 59725
dalec@mt.gov

PART IV. EA PREPARATION

1. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required?
NO.
If an EIS is not required, explain <u>why</u> the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action.

Based on an evaluation of the primary, secondary, and cumulative impacts to the physical and human environment under the Montana Environmental Protection Act (MEPA), this environmental review found no significant impacts from the proposed building stabilization project in Bannack State Park. In determining the significance of the impacts, FWP assessed the severity, duration, geographic extent, and frequency of the impact. FWP also assessed the probability that the impact would occur or reasonable assurance that the impact would not occur, growth-inducing or growth inhibiting aspects of the impact, the importance to the state and to society of the environmental resource or value affected, and precedent that would be set as a result of the proposed action that would commit FWP to future actions. Potential conflicts with local, federal, or state laws were also examined. Therefore, an EA is the appropriate level of review and an EIS is not required.

2. Person(s) responsible for preparing the EA:

Jerry Walker
Regional Parks Manager
1400 South 19th
Bozeman, MT 59718
(406)994-3552

Dale Carlson
Park Manager
4200 Bannack Road
Dillon, MT 59725
(406)834-3413

Linnaea Schroeer-Smith
Independent Contractor
1027 9th Ave
Helena, MT 59601
(406)495-9620

3. List of agencies consulted during preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- Parks Division
- Wildlife Division
- Fisheries Division
- Design & Construction Bureau

Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
Montana Department of Commerce – Tourism
Montana Natural Heritage Program – Natural Resources Information System (NRIS)

PART V. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

3. Evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action including secondary and cumulative impacts on the Physical and Human Environment.

A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. LAND RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. **Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				1a.
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil, which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X			1b
c. **Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				1c.
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1a. The proposed building stabilization work and water system upgrade would not affect geologic substructure or soil stability.

1b. Some minor disruption, displacement, or over-covering of soil might occur during foundation, drainage, and water work. The impacts would be minor and monitored.

1c. No unique geologic features would be destroyed, covered, or modified by the proposed action.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

2. AIR Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. **Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (Also see 13 (c).)			X			2a.
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. ***For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge, which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a.)						
f. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

2a. Minor and temporary dust and vehicle emissions would be created by heavy equipment during repair and hydrant work, but would end after completion of the project.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

3. WATER Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. *Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?			X			3b.
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?			X			3c.
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?			X			3g.
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c.)						
m. ***For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a.)						
n. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

3b. Drainage patterns would purposefully be altered around buildings involved in the proposed action. This drainage alteration is intended to direct water away from buildings in order to preserve the structure and prevent moisture-related decay. The rate or amount of runoff would not increase, but the pattern would be changed in a positive manner.

3c. Landscape work performed to direct water away from buildings would also serve to keep flash flood waters away from buildings.

3g. The additional hydrants would increase the use of groundwater by a small degree.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

4. VEGETATION Will the proposed action result in?	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			X		yes	4a.
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				4c.
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			X			4e.
f. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?						
g. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Vegetation (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):4a.

4a. Vegetation in the area of the townsite is sparse and consists mainly of grasses with scattered forbs and sagebrush. Some small areas of vegetation might be disturbed during foundation and drainage work. All disturbed areas would be seeded with native grass species or otherwise reclaimed following construction.

4c. There are no documented observations of any threatened or endangered species within the proposed project site or the larger Bannack State Park area. A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Database showed 7 plant species of concern that might occur in or near the proposed project area. Park managers are confident that none of these species would be adversely affected by the proposed project because all work would occur over previously disturbed ground which does not contain populations of those species of concern.

4e. Proposed foundation and drainage work has the potential to expose bare soil which can facilitate the establishment and/or spread of noxious weeds. All disturbed areas would be seeded with native grasses and shrubs to reduce the potential for establishment or spread of weeds. In addition, weed control measures will be performed in an on-going basis as described in the Region Three Noxious Weed Management Plan and EA.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

** 5. FISH/WILDLIFE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				5f.
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f.)						
i. ***For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d.)						
j. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Fish and Wildlife (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

5f. There are no documented observations of any threatened or endangered species within the proposed project site or the larger Bannack State Park area. A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Database showed 6 wildlife species of concern that might occur in or near the proposed project area. Park managers are confident that none of these species would be adversely affected by the proposed project because all work would occur over previously disturbed ground in heavily trafficked areas.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

B. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X			6a.
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Noise/Electrical Effects (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

6a. There would be a temporary increase in noise level during implementation of the proposed project. It is unlikely that any area residents would be affected by the noise because of the distance between residences and work areas and vegetative buffer zones.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

7. LAND USE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				7a.
b. Conflict with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Use (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

7a. There would be no alteration or interference with the existing land use in the greater Bannack State Park area.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?			X		yes	8a.
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan, or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?			X positive		yes	8c.
d. ***For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)						
e. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Risk/Health Hazards (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

8a. There is a minor risk of spill or leak of petroleum products from heavy machinery used in the proposed project. Chemical spraying maybe used to deter the establishment and growth of noxious weeds in the proposed construction areas. Weed treatment would be conducted only by a trained professional licensed in the State of Montana under the guidelines of the Region 3 Weed Management Plan. Additionally, these risks can be minimized by adherence to BMP's during all phases of the project.

8c. The proposed building stabilization project would likely make the Park safer for visitors and staff, as there would be a reduced risk of falling material or building collapse.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT **Will the proposed action result in:**	**IMPACT ***				**Can Impact Be Mitigated ***	**Comment Index**
	Unknown *	**None**	**Minor ***	**Potentially Significant**		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Community Impact (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

9. It is unlikely that the proposed project would have any impact on the surrounding rural community.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased use of any energy source?		X				
e. **Define projected revenue sources						10e.
f. **Define projected maintenance costs.						10f.
g. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Public Services/Taxes/Utilities (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

10e. A sum of $500,000 of general funds has been allocated by the 2007 Legislature for the proposed building stabilization projects and approximately $2,000 for the outdoor water system upgrade which would be paid through FWP's major maintenance funds.

10f. Maintenance costs for the 11 buildings addressed in this project would likely be reduced as a result of the repair work. Problems such as leaky roofs, shifting buildings, and unstable substructures would be corrected through proposed stabilization efforts, reducing current maintenance costs for these structures.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

** 11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
c. **Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report.)						11c.
d. ***For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c.)						
e. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Aesthetics/Recreation (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

11c. The proposed project is not expected to affect the quality or quantity of recreational opportunities and settings (Please see Tourism Report in Attachment A).

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. **Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric, historic, or paleontological importance?			X			12a.
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?			X		yes	12b.
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a.)						
e. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Cultural/Historical Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

12a. The proposed project will alter historically significant buildings. However, stabilization will improve the condition of those buildings, be architecturally and historically sound, and be done in consultation with SHPO.

12b. Because of the nature of this project (stabilization of historic buildings), it is likely there will be impacts to the cultural resources at this site. However, it is anticipated that all impacts will be either beneficial or minor and mitigated. The SHPO has been sent a list of the proposed stabilization work and would review and provide comments on the plans for the proposed work at 35%, 65%, and 95% of the project timeline. Due to the nature of the project, FWP will consult with the SHPO and develop a testing or monitoring program based on the recommendations received from the SHPO once the areas of ground disturbance are identified on the plans.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE **Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:**	**IMPACT ***				**Can Impact Be Mitigated ***	**Comment Index**
	Unknown *	**None**	**Minor ***	**Potentially Significant**		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources that create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				13a.
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. ***For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e.)						
g. ****For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Significance Criteria (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

13a. This EA found no significant impacts to the human or physical environment from the proposed action.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PART VI. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

Bannack State Park is an important historical and cultural site for the State of Montana and of the West in general. As the location of Montana's first Territorial Capitol and best-preserved ghost town, Bannack State Park attracts thousands of visitors a year, especially during July's popular 'Bannack Days'. The old main street of Bannack is lined with numerous historic buildings that date from the first discovery of gold in the area to its Territorial Capitol heyday and beyond. The ghost town is a rich source of history, mystery, and imagination for visitors of all ages and is the central attraction of the Park. The proposed stabilization project is necessary to maintain Bannack for the enjoyment and education of future generations.

Some of the stabilization and preservation activities associated with the proposed action have the potential to affect unique cultural values. Issues and concerns related to these activities include, but are not limited by, thorough analysis of historic buildings' structural problems and deficiencies, application of acceptable preservation techniques, discovery of hidden artifacts within buildings and beneath the soil, subsequent interpretation of these discoveries, etc. None of the work embodied in the proposed action would affect the eligibility of Bannack to remain listed in the National Register of Historic Places. All work would be done in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and in strict accordance with their required mitigation, stipulation, and control measures, including constant project monitoring by a qualified historic archaeologist.

This EA did not reveal any significant negative impacts to the physical and human environment stemming from the proposed action. No threatened or endangered species have been observed in the area, and no unique or physical features would be affected. In short, the proposed project would help to ensure continued visitor enjoyment of the site without causing significant adverse affects to the environment.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

APPENDIX 1
HB495
PROJECT QUALIFICATION CHECKLIST

Date October 11, 2007 **Person Reviewing** Linnaea Schroeer-Smith

Project Location: Bannack State Park, Beaverhead County. Section 7, Township 8S, Range 11W.

Description of Proposed Work: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes to begin stabilization work on 11 historic buildings within the old Bannack townsite. Proposed projects vary from building to building, but generally address foundations, roofs, replacement of sill and spandrel logs, and drainage issues. Also, the outdoor water system would be upgraded to include two additional frost-free hydrants.

The following checklist is intended to be a guide for determining whether a proposed development or improvement is of enough significance to fall under HB 495 rules. (Please check _ all that apply and comment as necessary.)

[ ] A. New roadway or trail built over undisturbed land?
Comments: None

[ ] B. New building construction (buildings <100 sf and vault latrines exempt)?
Comments: None

[ ] C. Any excavation of 20cy or greater?
Comments: None

[ ] D. New parking lots built over undisturbed land or expansion of existing lot that increases parking capacity by 25% or more?
Comments: None

[ ] E. Any new shoreline alteration that exceeds a double wide boat ramp or handicapped fishing station?
Comments: None.

[ ] F. Any new construction into lakes, reservoirs, or streams?
Comments: None.

[ ] G. Any new construction in an area with National Registry quality cultural artifacts (as determined by State Historical Preservation Office)?
Comments: SHPO clearance would be obtained before commencement of project.

[ ] H. Any new above ground utility lines?
Comments: None

[ ] I. Any increase or decrease in campsites of 25% or more of an existing number of campsites?
Comments: None.

[ ] J. Proposed project significantly changes the existing features or use pattern; including effects of a series of individual projects?
Comments: None

If any of the above are checked, HB 495 rules apply to this proposed work and should be documented on the MEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST. Refer to MEPA/HB495 Cross Reference Summary for further assistance.

Appendix 2

Sensitive Plants and Animals in the Bannack State Park Area

A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) element occurrence database (nhp.nris.state.mt.us/eoportal) indicates no known occurrences of federally listed threatened, endangered, or proposed threatened or endangered plant or animal species in the proposed project site.

Species of Concern Terms and Definitions

Montana Species of Concern. The term **"Species of Concern"** includes taxa that are at-risk or potentially at-risk due to rarity, restricted distribution, habitat loss, and/or other factors. The term also encompasses species that have a special designation by organizations or land management agencies in Montana including: Bureau of Land Management Special Status and Watch species; U.S. Forest Service Sensitive and Watch species; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Threatened, Endangered and Candidate species.

Status Ranks (Global and State)

The international network of Natural Heritage Programs employs a standardized ranking system to denote global (**G** -- range-wide) and state status (**S**) (NatureServe 2003). Species are assigned numeric ranks ranging from 1 (critically imperiled) to 5 (demonstrably secure), reflecting the relative degree to which they are "at-risk." Rank definitions are given below. A number of factors are considered in assigning ranks -- the number, size and distribution of known "occurrences" or populations, population trends (if known), habitat sensitivity, and threat. Factors in a species' life history that make it especially vulnerable are also considered (e.g., dependence on a specific pollinator).

Status Ranks

Code	Definition
G1 S1	At high risk because of extremely limited and/or rapidly declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, making it highly vulnerable to global extinction or extirpation in the state.
G2 S2	At risk because of very limited and/or declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, making it vulnerable to global extinction or extirpation in the state.
G3 S3	Potentially at risk because of limited and/or declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, even though it may be abundant in some areas.
G4 S4	Uncommon but not rare (although it may be rare in parts of its range), and usually widespread. Apparently not vulnerable in most of its range, but possibly cause for long-term concern.
G5 S5	Common, widespread, and abundant (although it may be rare in parts of its range). Not vulnerable in most of its range.

1. *Buteo regalis* (Ferruginous hawk).

Natural Heritage Ranks:	Federal Agency Status:
State: **S2B**	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:
Global: **G4**	U.S. Forest Service:
	U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

This sensitive species has been regularly observed from 1977 through the present in short-grass prairie habitat and brushy draws. The full extent of occupied breeding habitat is unknown, but most sightings have occurred in the Lima-Sweetwater breaks northwest of Dillon. It is unlikely that the proposed project would affect this species.

2. *Perognathus parvus* (Great Basin pocket mouse).

Natural Heritage Ranks:	Federal Agency Status:
State: **S2S3**	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:
Global: **G5**	U.S. Forest Service:
	U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

The data report for this species does not show an overlap between the proposed project site and the projected element occurrence. However, one may exist. The proposed project would still be unlikely to affect this species as all stabilization work would occur on previously disturbed and heavily-trafficked ground.

3. *Brachylagus idahoensis* (pygmy rabbit)

Natural Heritage Ranks:	Federal Agency Status:
State: **S3**	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:
Global: **G4**	U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**
	U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

The possible element occurrence for this species includes most of Bannack State Park. However, the proposed project would be unlikely to affect this species as all stabilization work would occur on previously disturbed and heavily-trafficked ground.

4. *Lepus californicus* (black-tailed jack rabbit).

Natural Heritage Ranks:	Federal Agency Status:
State: **S2**	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:
Global: **G5**	U.S. Forest Service:
	U.S. Bureau of Land Management:

This record is a summary of multiple observations in the Bannack area with dates ranging from 1937-1997. The proposed project would be unlikely to affect this species as all stabilization work would occur on previously disturbed and heavily trafficked ground.

5. *Spizella breweri* (Brewer's sparrow)

Natural Heritage Ranks:	Federal Agency Status:
State: **S2B**	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:
Global: **G5**	U.S. Forest Service:
	U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

The Element Occurrence map for this species indicates that it occurs mainly in an area directly south of the park, and thus the proposed project would have a low likelihood of affecting this population.

6. Corynorhinus townsendii (Townsend's big-eared bat)

Natural Heritage Ranks:	Federal Agency Status:
State: **S2**	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:
Global: **G4**	U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**
	U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

The element occurrence of this species is located approximately ½ mile from the proposed project site. As this species roosts in caves or abandoned mine shafts, it is unlikely that this project would affect it.

7. *Thelypodium sagittatum ssp.* *sagittatum* (slender thelypody).

Natural Heritage Ranks:	Federal Agency Status:
State: **S2**	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:
Global: **G5**	U.S. Forest Service:
	U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

A specimen for this sensitive species was first collected during the tenth census of the United States Department of Forestry, Northwestern Territories, in 1880. No current population data for this species is available.

8. *Lesquerella pulchella* (beautiful bladderpod).

Natural Heritage Ranks:	Federal Agency Status:
State: **S2**	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:
Global: **G2**	U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**
	U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

A population of approximately 1,000 plants belonging to this species has been observed on an adjoining ridge and within the Grasshopper Creek valley about 0.25 miles from the proposed project site and would be unlikely to be affected.

9. *Sphaeromeria argentea* (chicken sage).

Natural Heritage Ranks:	Federal Agency Status:
State: **S2S3**	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:
Global: **G3G4**	U.S. Forest Service:
	U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

A population of between 1,000 and 10,000 plants occurs on a dry, open residual upperslope and ridge crest about 0.5 miles from the proposed project site and would be unlikely to be affected.

10. *Lomatium attenuatum* (taper-tip desert-parsley).

Natural Heritage Ranks:	Federal Agency Status:
State: **S2**	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:
Global: **G3**	U.S. Forest Service:
	U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

Over 10,000 plants occur within the larger Bannack State Park area, but it is unlikely that this project would affect this species as no previously undisturbed soil would be disturbed during the implementation of the proposed project.

11. *Astragalus scaphoides* (Bitterroot milkvetch).

Natural Heritage Ranks:	Federal Agency Status:
State: **S2**	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:
Global: **G3**	U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**
	U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

Approximately 300 plants occur in 3 subpopulations about 2 1/2 miles from the proposed project site. There is sufficient distance between the element occurrence of this species and the townsite to ensure that this population would not be affected by the proposed project.

12. *Phacelia incana* (hoary phacelia).

Natural Heritage Ranks:	Federal Agency Status:
State: **S2**	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:
Global: **G3G4**	U.S. Forest Service:
	U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

Over 1000 plants occur in patches on a ridge complex within Bannack State Park. The proposed project would not occur in the vicinity of this population of plants and would not affect them.

13. *Townsendia spathulata* *(*sword townsendia*)*

Natural Heritage Ranks:	Federal Agency Status:
State: **S3**	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:
Global: **G3**	U.S. Forest Service:
	U.S. Bureau of Land Management:

A small population of approximately 10 plants was observed in 1994 in the northwest portion of the park. The proposed building stabilization work would not occur in the vicinity of these plants and thus would have a low likelihood of affecting them.

Interested parties may contact MFWP Region 3 offices for a detailed map of sensitive species Element Occurrences (EOs).

Information courtesy of Montana Natural Heritage Program.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Tourism Report – Department of Commerce

ATTACHMENT A
TOURISM REPORT
MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA)/HB495

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has initiated the review process as mandated by HB495 and the Montana Environmental Policy Act in its consideration of the project described below. As part of the review process, input and comments are being solicited.

Carol Crockett
Tourism Development Specialist, Travel Montana
Montana Commerce Department
301 South Park Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
406-841-2796, FAX 406-841-2871
ccrockett@mt.gov

Project Name: Bannack State Park Building Stabilization Project

Project Location: Bannack State Park, Beaverhead County. Section 7, Township 8S, Range 11W.

Project Description: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes to begin stabilization work on 11 historic buildings within the old Bannack town site. Proposed projects vary from building to building, but generally address foundations, roofs, replacement of sill and spandrel logs, and drainage issues. Also, the outdoor water system would be upgraded to include two additional frost-free hydrants.

1. Would this site development project have an impact on the tourism economy?
   NO **YES** If YES, briefly describe:

As described, the project has the potential to have a positive impact on the tourism economy.

2. Does this impending improvement alter the quality or quantity of recreation/tourism opportunities and settings?
   NO **YES** If YES, briefly describe:

As described, the project has the potential to positively impact the quality and quantity of tourism/recreation opportunities and settings.

Signature: Carol Crockett Date: Nov. 14, 2007